

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Inventory Number: ~~10037~~ CH-986  
Address: 8905 Fairground Road, Charles County - in the vicinity of Bel Alton  
Owner: Frere, Samuel P and Doris A  
Tax Parcel Number: 114 Tax Map Number: 55  
Project MD 301 Agency State Highway Administration (SHA)  
Site visit by SHA Staff: X no \_\_\_ yes Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Eligibility recommended \_\_\_ Eligibility not recommended X  
Criteria \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D Considerations: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D \_\_\_ E \_\_\_ F \_\_\_ G X None  
Is property located within a historic district?: X no \_\_\_ yes Name of District: \_\_\_\_\_  
Is district listed?: X no \_\_\_ yes  
Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Project Review and Compliance Files

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)

8905 Fairground Road is a two-story I-house with a large one-and-one-half-story rear addition. The wood frame house is clad with German siding and is covered by a side gable roof. The house is two-bays wide and has a one-story, full-width porch. The porch has a half-hipped roof, which is supported by turned wood posts with decorative brackets.

Charles County's late 19th- and early 20th-century history is dominated by industrial and urban development. The greatest impact upon community growth came from the railroad. The completion of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad's (B&P) mainline from Bowie in Prince George's County to Pope's Creek in Charles County in 1872 prompted local entrepreneurs to establish stores and other commercial facilities near the railroad stations. The B&P Railroad also made inland farms accessible, thus, increasing their value and revitalizing the practice of agriculture in Southern Maryland. La Plata station still stands at the intersection of the rail line with Charles Street.

As La Plata grew, Charles County citizens lobbied to have the county seat moved from Port Tobacco to La Plata.

Prepared by EHT Traceries, Inc.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_

Eligibility not recommended X

Criteria: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B X C \_\_\_ D

Consideration \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D \_\_\_ E \_\_\_ F \_\_\_ G \_\_\_ None

  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

4/3/99  
Date

Reviewer, NR Program

Date

La Plata became the county seat of Charles County's government in 1895 and a new courthouse was erected in 1896.

Towards the end of the first quarter of the 20th century, road improvements and developments also contributed to Charles County's community evolution. In particular, the Robert Crain Highway, later expanded as part of U.S. 301, attracted new development to older communities along its corridor. Crain Highway brought commercial development on La Plata's west side and contributed to the Charles County seat's overall growth in the 1920s and 1930s.

Built circa 1900, this Queen Anne-style I-house is not eligible for the National Register. While it is an earlier example of the modest residential development surrounding U.S. 301, this resource lacks significance related to events, persons, or architecture. Criterion D, information potential, was not assessed for this study.

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U.S. 301

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BLUE SKY  
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DELALTON  
PARK

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CONSOLIDATED RAIL CORP.

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SWEETNEY

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Charles County, MD  
Tax Map 55

N↑

OPEN SPACE  
'B'

HAPEL POINT WOODS

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10/100

POPE'S CREEK QUAD

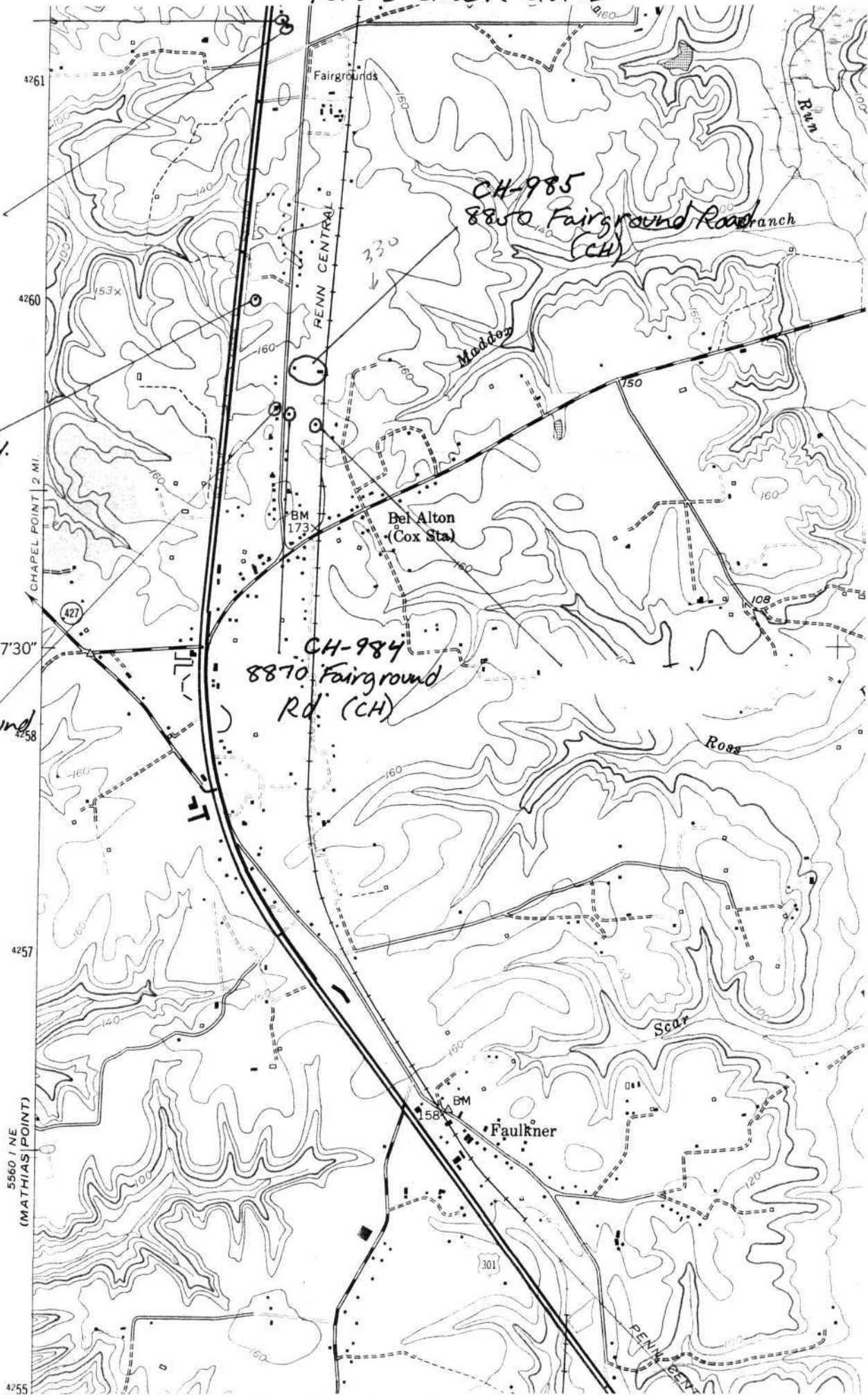
CH-1000  
8280 Crain  
Hwy. (CH)

CH-987  
8600 Crain Hwy.  
(CH)

CH-986  
8905 Fairground  
Rd. (CH)

CH-985  
8850 Fairground Road  
(CH)

CH-984  
8870 Fairground  
Rd. (CH)







~~CH-986~~ CH-986

8905 Fairground Road

Charles County, MD

Traceries

June 1999

MD SHPO

View looking northwest

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